

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An annular-shaped metal gasket having a cross section provided with an outer circumferential opening and formed in one of a laterally U-shape and a C-shape, comprising annular-shaped voids formed in the innermost circumferential portions on the two confronting flat sealing surfaces of the metal gasket that are in contact with opponent surfaces, each void having a width equal to or more than 40% of the central wall thickness t_0 of the gasket and a height equal to or more than 5% of the height H of the gasket, wherein the cross section of the gasket is formed in a tuning-fork shape.

2. A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein the wall thickness t_1 of the portions of the metal gasket that are caused to come into contact with the opponents surfaces by tightening is gradually reduced to 50% of the wall thickness t_1 toward the circumferentially outermost portions of the metal gasket.